

basis" as referenced in *Pierce v. Underwood* does not appear in H.R. 3309 as originally introduced, or as amended.

For purposes of understanding the reduced burden effectuated by the Jeffries Amendment, the most relevant part of the *Pierce v. Underwood* decision is the majority opinion's assertion that "our analysis does not convert the statutory term 'substantially justified' into 'reasonably justified.'" In other words, the two terms yield different standards. Logically, then, "reasonably justified" sets forth a lower threshold that must be met by a non-prevailing party.

The concurring opinion of Justice William Brennan further clarifies the practical difference in terms. "Reasonable" has a variety of connotations, but may be defined as 'not absurd' or 'not ridiculous.' Webster's New Third International Dictionary 1892 (1976) . . . While it is true 'reasonable' and 'substantial' overlap somewhat . . . an overlap is not an identity."

Accordingly, since the Supreme Court does not equate "substantially justified" with "reasonably justified," the suggestion that the change made to the fee-shifting provision in H.R. 3309 is practically meaningless lacks merit. In sum, the Jeffries Amendment deliberately lowers the bar from "substantially justified" to "reasonably justified" in a manner that relaxes the fee-shifting standard in the bill.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. JOHN DALTON

HON. KERRY L. BENTIVOLIO

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Dalton was appointed to the Livonia Human Relations Commission by Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey and was elected by his fellow commissioners to serve as the Vice Chairman of the city commission. He takes his new position on the commission at the start of 2014. Congratulations to Mr. John Dalton.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO AND THE RWJF CENTER FOR HEALTH POLICY ON THEIR DEDICATION TO HEALTH JUSTICE

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the University of New Mexico and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Center for Health Policy at the University of New Mexico for their dedication to achieving health justice. This September, the University of New Mexico hosted the Congressional Tri-Caucus Health Disparities conference titled "Practices and Policies That Promote Health Justice". The summit brought together local and national experts, leaders, policymakers, and advocates for a comprehensive discussion on the status of health justice.

The Tri-Caucus health summit grew out of the need to move forward the discussion on

health disparities in Washington and around the nation. The 2013 Health Disparities Summit has set a new standard for this discussion. Thanks to the efforts of the conference planning committee, this summit was the first to include Native American speakers and perspectives, a contribution that sets an important precedent for future summits.

Hosted by the University of New Mexico, under the leadership of President Robert G. Frank and Chancellor for Health Sciences Paul B. Roth, and coordinated by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Center for Health Policy at UNM, led by Director Gabriel Sanchez, the summit provided my Tri-Caucus colleagues and myself with the most relevant and groundbreaking research on health disparities, including in-depth discussions on the serious reality of racial and ethnic health disparities.

The RWJF Center for Health Policy at the University of New Mexico is a research and training institute whose mission is to increase the diversity of health policy leaders who are trained in the social and behavioral sciences and nursing. One of the ways they accomplish this is through their doctoral fellow program, which nurtures promising researchers who are dedicated to social justice and the elimination of health disparities.

Over the course of the conference, I had the distinct pleasure of meeting with several RWJF doctoral fellows whose dedication and passion for achieving health equity helped me return to Washington reenergized to continue working toward health equity. It is meeting people like the RWJF research faculty and their doctoral fellows that gives me hope that we will continue to gain traction in the movement to eliminate health inequalities and achieve health justice.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have the privilege of representing my alma mater in Congress. As the only Hispanic-Serving Institution in the United States that is classified as a Carnegie Research University with Very High Activity, UNM is at the forefront of education and groundbreaking research, which contributes to a more just and equitable society. The University of New Mexico has taken an active role in working to eliminate health disparities and the RWJF Center for Health Policy is leading this charge. I would like to congratulate the University of New Mexico on their successful conference and for their dedication to achieving health justice.

CELEBRATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL INDUSTRIES FOR THE BLIND (NIB)

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, the National Industries for the Blind (NIB) is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year, and I am honored to be a part of its celebration. Seventy-five years ago, the Wagner-O'Day Act was signed into law, which created the AbilityOne Program as well as the NIB.

NIB strives to enhance economic and personal independence of persons who are blind by creating, sustaining, and improving employment.

The NIB works with 91 agencies spread out among 35 states at over 250 locations and the

agencies provide products and services for the government.

In my home state, Outlook Nebraska is the NIB provider and is an economic engine that brings valuable business to the Omaha area.

Founded in 2000, Outlook Nebraska, much like its sister NIB agencies, seeks to enhance the quality of life for the blind and visually impaired.

It is Nebraska's largest employer for those with vision disabilities. Outlook Nebraska's work is especially important because, unfortunately, 70 percent of working-age Americans who are blind are unemployed.

The AbilityOne program makes Outlook Nebraska possible. As the official AbilityOne manufacturer of quality tissue and towel products for the government, Outlook Nebraska supplies a full line of 100 percent recycled fiber content tissue and towel products, including bath tissue, pull towels, and all compatible dispensers to the United States government.

Besides the manufacturing of products, the agency provides complete product servicing from its office and tissue-converting site in Omaha.

The agency has also developed additional services for blind and visually impaired employees, such as education and training to provide them with the technological skills that allow them to excel in their professional and personal lives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DIANE BLACK

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 630 for final passage of H.R. 3521, and rollcall No. 631 for final passage of H.R. 1402, which took place Tuesday, December 10, 2013, I am not recorded because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on both bills.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIFICATION OF THE ISLAND OF CRETE WITH THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the unification of the Island of Crete with the Hellenic Republic. On December 1, 1913, the flag of Greece was raised proudly on the Island, recognizing the will of the people of Crete who declared their unification with Greece, breaking ties with the oppressive Ottoman Empire which had occupied the island since 1669.

Sitting at the crossroads of Africa, Europe and the Middle East, Crete, one of the largest islands in the Mediterranean, is matched by its oversized influence throughout world history. Crete was home to the Minoan civilization, a major center for the Roman, Byzantine, Venetian and Ottoman empires, and birthplace to some of the world's most renowned artists—like Nobel laureate Odysseus Elytis and composer, Mikis Theodorakis.